



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of Kevin R. Hennessy
Staff Attorney
Connecticut Business & Industry Association
Before the Commerce Committee
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My name is Kevin Hennessy. I am a staff attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (hereinafter "CBIA"). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry. They range from large, global corporations to small, family owned businesses. Approximately 90 percent of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on:

- **HB 5440 AAC An Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

HB 5440 AAC An Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

CBIA is pleased to support **HB 5440 AAC An Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**. CBIA serves on the Governor's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council ("the Council") which was established under Executive Order 34. The Council is charged with strategically preparing the State for the integration of Electric Vehicles ("EV") into the market; the coordination of interagency decision-making on critical issues; establishing performance measures for meeting infrastructure, funding, environmental, and regulatory goals; and aligning the State's goals with what is occurring on the national level for EVs. The Council has submitted a preliminary report and is required to submit a final report to the Governor by September 1, 2010, with the Council's recommendations on the infrastructure and regulation needs of EVs.¹

Beyond reducing our dependence on foreign energy sources and reducing emissions, EVs offer the added benefit of positive economic development impacts. Currently, Connecticut is already home to companies that focus on the lithium batteries and charging stations necessary for EVs. Encouraging this industry to grow in Connecticut is good for consumers and could also increase Research & Development ("R&D") and manufacturing operations.

EVs have become increasingly prominent in the United States. Manufacturers have announced more than a dozen highway-capable electric vehicle models for introduction in the next few years. President Obama's administration has committed more than \$4 billion in support of the design, manufacture, and purchase of electric vehicles. Connecticut can position itself well to be part of the EV growth industry.

¹ http://www.ct.gov/dpuc/lib/dpuc/docs/prelim_report_ct_ev_council_comments.doc



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Initiating legislation, like **HB 5440**, that promotes EV usage and infrastructure sends a positive message to the auto industry that Connecticut is serious about EVs. It makes it a more attractive market for the auto industry to introduce pilot vehicles and it should encourage economic development through R&D and manufacturing. CBIA is pleased to support **HB 5440** and asks the Commerce Committee to remain engaged in the issue and work with the Council to implement its final recommendations once they are presented this summer or fall.